

FISCAL NOTE
SB 2134 - HB 2249

February 13, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires nursing homes and state university student dormitories and other student housing to adopt fire safety standards as approved by the Department of Health. Such standards must address, at a minimum, the use of water sprinklers or other fire safety prevention devices or alarms.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

MINIMAL

Estimate assumes:

- Under this bill, nursing homes would be required to modify their fire safety plan to include sprinklers *or other fire safety and prevention devices*. All nursing homes currently have fire safety systems, approved by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities, that include fire alarms and would meet the requirements of the bill.
- The bill will be interpreted by the Department of Health as not authorizing the Department to require nursing homes without sprinkler systems to install such systems. Therefore, sprinkler systems for nursing homes not required to have them under current law will also not be required under the provisions of this bill.
- The Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities may impose fines on facilities that do not meet requirements of the law.
- The University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents System currently have fire alarm and fire safety systems that would meet the requirements.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director